

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 122355
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSCE-00 PM-05 SS-15 SSO-00 SP-02
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 PA-01 /046 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/RPM:LBRECKON:KS
APPROVED BY EUR:GVEST
EUR/RPM:SLEDOGAR
EUR:JEGOODBY
PM:JKAHAN

-----089223 130126Z /70

O 122347Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE
USDEL MBFR VIENNA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 122355

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: NATO, MBFR, PARM

SUBJECT: FRG VIEWS ON DAVID OWEN PROPOSAL FOR MBFR
FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING

REF: STATE 121263

1. FRG ARMS CONTROL COMMISSIONER FRED RUTH DISCUSSED
DAVID OWEN IDEA FOR AN MBFR FOREIGN MINISTER'S MEETING
(REFTEL) WITH EUR ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST MAY 12,
NOTING THAT SCHMIDT AND GENSCHER WERE FAVORABLE IN
PRINCIPLE TO THE IDEA. THE FRG BELIEVES, HOWEVER,
THAT WE WOULD HAVE TO LOOK VERY CAREFULLY AT THE IDEA OF
FIXING A DATE IN ADVANCE, SINCE MBFR NEGOTIATING
DEVELOPMENTS BETWEEN THE SUMMIT AND THE MEETING COULD

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DEVELOP IN UNEXPECTED WAYS.

2. RUTH WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE FRG WORKING LEVEL
BELIEVES THERE MUST BE AGREEMENT ON DATA AS A CONDITION
OF ACTUALLY HOLDING THE FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING.
THIS WOULD ENCOMPASS PROGRESS IN RESPONSE TO THE WESTERN
INITIATIVE AS WELL, RUTH NOTED: THE TWO ARE INTERTWINED.

IF A SUMMIT CALL FOR A FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING WERE PHRASED IN SUCH A WAY AS TO MAKE DATA AGREEMENT A PRECONDITION, IT COULD PROVIDE VERY USEFUL LEVERAGE

IN GETTING THE SOVIETS TO MOVE ON THE DATA ISSUE.

3. VEST NOTED THAT GERMAN VIEWS WERE EXTREMELY CLOSE TO THE POINTS WE HAD MADE TO THE BRITISH MAY 11, IN RESPONSE TO OWEN'S LETTER TO THE SECRETARY. WE AGREED THERE SHOULD BE NO FIXED DATE. IN ADDITION, IN ORDER FOR SUCH A MEETING TO BE HELD, THERE SHOULD BE A SERIOUS EASTERN RESPONSE TO THE WESTERN INITIATIVE TABLED IN VIENNA IN APRIL, AND THERE SHOULD BE REAL PROGRESS TOWARD RESOLVING THE DATA ISSUE. WE HAD ALSO INDICATED TO THE BRITISH THAT WE THOUGHT THE NEGOTIATING LEVERAGE OF A CONDITIONAL OFFER TO MEET AT THE FOREIGN MINISTERS' LEVEL WOULD BE INCREASED IF ONE OF US INFORMED THE SOVIETS PRIVATELY JUST PRIOR TO THE SUMMIT. THIS WOULD MAKE IT HARDER FOR THEM TO TREAT IT AS POSTURING FOR EFFECT.

4. RUTH AGREED ON THE DESIRABILITY OF A PRIVATE INDICATION TO THE SOVIETS FIRST, ALTHOUGH TIMING MAY MAKE THIS IMPOSSIBLE. WE ASKED WHAT DEGREE OF AGREEMENT ON DATA WOULD BE REQUIRED, IN THE FRG WORKING LEVEL VIEW, TO JUSTIFY A FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING. RUTH SAID PRESENT THINKING IS THAT UNRESOLVED DATA ISSUES WOULD PRESENT AN
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"OPEN FLANK" AT SUCH A MEETING, AND THIS WOULD CARRY A HIGH RISK FOR OUR MBFR POSITION.

5. ON TIMING, WE TOLD RUTH WE THOUGHT THE UK MIGHT WELL INTRODUCE THE SUBJECT IN THE NAC NEXT WEEK.

6. VEST SAID THE OWEN LETTER HAD ALSO PROPOSED THAT THE ALLIANCE BECOME MORE INVOLVED IN DISCUSSION OF ARMS CONTROL SUBJECTS. RUTH SAID THE FRG WAS UNAWARE OF THIS SUGGESTION. THINKING OUT LOUD, HE COULD SEE SOME VALUE IN FOCUSING SUCH EFFORTS ON GRAY AREA SYSTEMS. IF THIS DID NOT LEAD TO ACTUAL NEGOTIATIONS, IT WOULD NONETHELESS BE VALUABLE IN HIGHLIGHTING THE INCREASED SOVIET THREAT IN MEDIUM RANGE SYSTEMS TARGETED ON WESTERN EUROPE. IT COULD ALSO BE USED TO WORK OUT AN ALLIANCE STRATEGY FOR DEALING WITH THE CRUISE MISSILE ISSUE IN SALT III. VANCE

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /013 R

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DRAFTED BY:EUR/RPM:LBRECKON

APPROVED BY:EUR/RPM:SJLEDOGAR

-----100429 141019Z /10

R 140515Z MAY 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T STATE 122355

FOL STATE 122355 SENT ACTION BONN INFO LONDON USNATO VIENNA
MAY 12, 1978 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS, MUTUAL FORCE REDUCTIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE122355
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: LBRECKON:KS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780203-0113
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 121263
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2701716
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRG VIEWS ON DAVID OWEN PROPOSAL FOR MBFR FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING
TAGS: PARM, GE, UK, NATO, MBFR, (OWEN, DAVID)
To: BONN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d124969f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014